CGBD ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Annual Meeting Reception in Todos Santos / Photo by John Nordgren

A Message from the Executive Director

Dear CGBDers:

As I write this on one of the shortest days of the year, I am thinking about the light that each of you brings to your work, your mission and to the CGBD.

A membership organization such as the CGBD is only as strong as its members. We are lucky and blessed in that regard.

On the following pages, you'll see a brief look at the learning, cooperation, and collaborations of the year just past and the plans for the year ahead.

Behind each entry, is a world of thought and service to the greater community.

I'd like to welcome the new member foundations in 2014—the Goldman Environmental Foundation, the Laird Norton Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Oak Hill Fund, and the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation. And newly approved for membership as we begin 2015, the Tamalpais Trust and the Northwest Fund for the Environment. Welcome!

Looking forward to a productive year,

Lynn

Lynn Lohr

A Message from the President of the Board

Dear Colleagues,

Throughout 2014, the Consultative Group on Biological Diversity (CGBD) organized vibrant venues for philanthropic collaboration on issues critical to our field. We addressed both domestic and international conservation priorities. As always, our agenda was grounded in the priorities of our members and influenced by their intellectual leadership.

This annual report highlights key activities of the organization during the past year. I would like to bring to your attention one important internal development. In response to 2013 feedback from the membership, the CGBD Board of Directors refined the organization's vision, mission and goals in 2014 to more succinctly convey what we do. You can find the new vision, mission and goals on page 9.

The CGBD's work is aimed at improving the effectiveness of our collective efforts. The staff and board look forward to continued collaboration with our philanthropic, nonprofit, public, and private sector partners in the future; and we welcome your feedback on this annual report.

Sincerely,

Lois

Lois R. DeBacker

CONVENINGS

2014 featured a stellar year of convenings representing all CGBD programs. With each meeting planned by a committee of members, the reviews speak for themselves.

March: Land & Freshwater Conservation Program, Washington, DC
"It was great meeting with the decision-makers with well-prepared colleagues, being able to explain we are members of a larger group of funders, and multiple groups were meeting with multiple decision-makers over two days."

"A fantastic learning opportunity."

April: Marine Conservation, Salem, Massachusetts
"I got a good sense of the most important ocean issues. As a more local funder I need to know what people are thinking about nationally and internationally."

"Really helped illustrate what is cutting edge in the field."

April: Climate and Energy Funders Group, Cleveland
"This year was a comprehensive treatment of the issues and challenges, and room to explore different dimensions."

"Maybe the best I've been to. Solid presentations. I left feeling more inspired, empowered and optimistic than I've been in a while."

June: Annual Members' Meeting, Todos Santos Baja California Sur, Mexico
"The venue (teatro) was so special, and set the stage for the entire experience – meeting in different parts of Todos Santos, supporting many local businesses…wonderful short and long field trips. More fundamentally, meeting in another country was important for a needed international perspective… a very unique conference experience."

"We are able to connect on issues and opportunities that may not arise without the face-to-face opportunity the Annual Meeting provides."

Gulf of California Funders, Todos Santos, Baja Calfornia Sur, Mexico
"An opportunity to discuss openly and frankly the biggest challenges facing the region."

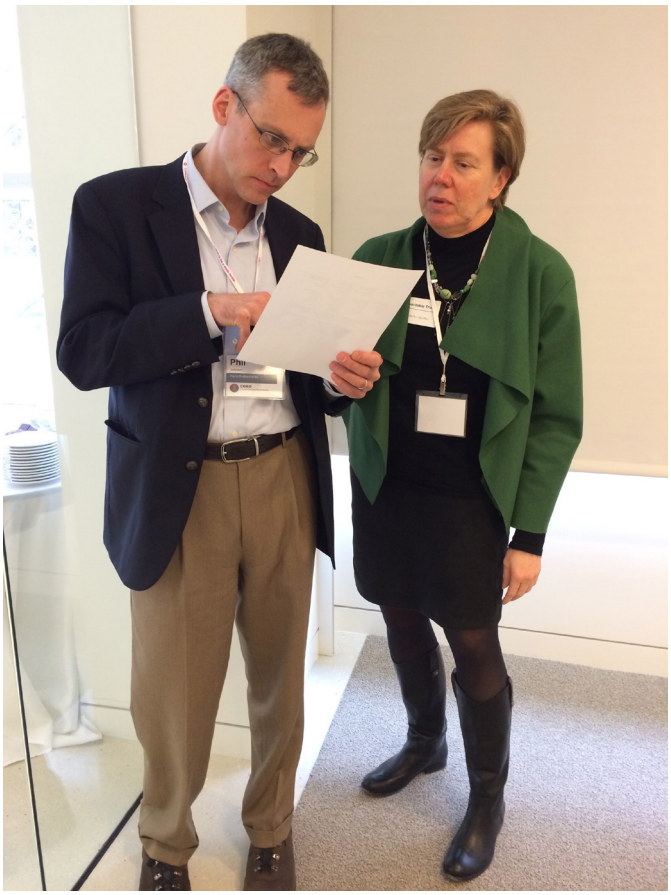
"I can't thinking of anything to make it better. I enjoyed it all."

September: Environmentalists Under Threat, International Connections, San Francisco
"An excellent forum, well-organized and executed."

"Be the force that pushes us to follow up and continue this conversation."

November: Biocarbon Briefing, Conservation Science Program, Seattle
"Thank you to the organizers. A great learning experience."

"Lots of information, well-delivered, useful."



Phil Johnson and Shelly Shreffler / Photo by Lynn Lohr

Artemisa Castro Félix / Photo by Steve Whitney

> “I just thought the sessions and speakers were fantastic. I learned a lot and got inspired and re-invigorated.”

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For its Annual Members’ Meeting, the CGBD moved beyond sites in the U.S. and Canada to its other North American neighbor, Mexico, specifically, the small town of Todos Santos, Baja California Sur. The reward for this ambition was record attendance and enhanced connections with Mexico-based grantmakers.

A new initiative, to aid members in protecting “Environmentalists Under Threat” quickly formed after an inspiring annual meeting session. A rich and growing selection of tools and resources is available to members on a password-protected part of the website.

With meeting sessions, webinars, calls and a steady stream of information, CGBD’s Climate and Energy Program (CEFG) launched funder activity on the Road to Paris—a journey that will culminate in the December 2015 United Nations-sponsored climate negotiations in France.

Likewise, CEFG began to lead funder activity in regional meetings and calls to help states respond to the promise of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) new Carbon Pollution Standards.

Cutting across all program areas, the CGBD hosted a funder briefing on Biocarbon, a suggested “second solution” to climate change. Maximizing carbon capture and storage will assist in prevention and adaptation to climate change impacts, while helping to restore biodiversity.

The first World Parks Congress in 11 years, just completed in Sydney, Australia, benefited from higher philanthropic attendance and involvement, stimulated in part by CGBD’s promotion and facilitation.

ANNUAL MEETING

Led by Beto Bedolfe (Marisla Foundation), with Barry Gold (Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation) as Board Liaison, the Annual Meeting Program Committee for 2014 (AMPC 2014) also included Lisa Weinstein (Turner Foundation), Hannah Fairbank, (USAID), Rosalind Becker (Helmsley Charitable Trust), Sergio Knaebel, (Sandler Foundation), Tom Steinbach (William and Flora Hewlett Foundation), and Don Weeden (Weeden Foundation). With the theme, “In Support of Conservation, Building Strength Through a Diversity of Approaches,” AMPC 2014 emphasized the continuum of strategies that members support. The popular Academy format drew funders on learning journeys to both the historic town of El Triunfo to discuss responses to proposed new mining ventures globally and to a palapa overlooking the shore to probe tactics to oppose unsustainable coastal development worldwide. In addition, sessions on Landscape Scale Land Conservation, Community Voices for Conservation Using New and Traditional Media, Using Mainstream Capital Markets to Shift Environmental Incentives and many others occupied attendees. The meeting was bookended with inspiring opening and closing sessions by Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra and Eric Berlow, respectively.

INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

The 2014 Annual Meeting in Todos Santos exemplified this Committee's efforts to bring international issues to the fore within the CGBD. Don Weeden was the liaison to AMPC 2014 and helped internationalize the agenda offerings beyond Mexico.

The Committee brought the membership up to date with the issues at play at the once-every ten years IUCN World Parks Congress (WPC). Activities included a first quarter webinar with WPC planners and an annual meeting session that highlighted meeting streams including indigenous issues, marine conservation, and climate change. The culmination was a Philanthropy Dialogue in Sydney featuring funders from Australia, Nicaragua, England, Belize, and the U.S. including members Imani Fairweather-Morrison (Oak Foundation), Dr. Barry Traill (Pew Charitable Trusts), Dr. Robert (Bob) Cook (Helmsley Charitable Trust), and Jorgen Thomsen, (MacArthur Foundation). Jessica Brown (New England Biolabs Foundation) and Dr. Ken Wilson (The Christensen Fund) led IUCN preparation and planning for the CGBD. The Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network, AEGN, co-sponsored the Dialogue.

The aforementioned Environmentalists Under Threat briefing advanced many of the topics that concern funders working internationally especially grantee security.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY FUNDERS GROUP (CEFG)

The Northeast Regional Funders Meeting was held January 8, 2014, in New York, sponsored in conjunction with the Environmental Grantmakers Association, EGA. In addition, CEFG convenes two funder workgroups—Southeast Energy Funders Network (SEFN) and the Utility Energy Efficiency Workgroup. Participants convene via conference call bi-monthly and meet in person annually to stay up to date with current issues and coordinate with peers.

The CEFG Annual Meeting, what one funder termed "the most important meeting of the year to stay abreast of and collaborate around funding against climate change," was held April 23-25, 2014, in Cleveland. More than 80 attendees participated in conversations around the Climate Action Plan, the path to Paris, and financing for clean energy.

Photos from the CGBD Annual Meeting by Steve Whitney and Angel Braestrup

CEFG conducted a survey of 2013 grantmaking. The survey requested information on total giving and funding by geography and strategy including energy efficiency, transportation, federal or state policy, and other relevant funding sectors.

Among the Program's 15 webinars were three co-hosted with the Environmental Grantmakers Association as lead-up to September 2014 Climate Week and the UN Summit on Climate Change. During this pivotal time, CEFG also sponsored funder events and joined the historic Climate March.

An extensive and popular emailed monthly update keeps participants current on the field of climate and energy.

Charlotte Hudson, Samantha Campbell and Peter Bryant
Photo by Angel Braestrup

> "Great networking opportunities this year!"

MARINE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Marine Conservation Program convened its 2014 annual meeting on March 31 - April 3 in Salem, MA. The theme of the meeting was, "Better Together: Funder Collaborations and Marine Conservation in a Time of Scarcity." Agenda topics included: US/European Fisheries Issues; Aquaculture and Food Security; Tipping Points in Marine Conservation; Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing; Coastal Impacts and Hazards; Alternative Forms of Investment: Non-philanthropic Money for Marine Conservation; and Businesses as Partners in Marine Conservation. The CGBD collaborated with Confluence Philanthropy who also met in Salem the same week.

With the assistance of The Ocean Foundation, the Program completed its 11th annual marine grantmaking conservation funding survey. The survey provides information on the strategies, issues and level of grantmaking for each of the Marine Conservation Program participants; allows funders to compare their marine grantmaking programs with others; and assists Program members as they look for potential partners in collaborative funding. The survey also asks Program members to list partnerships or collaborative projects that originated or were nurtured at the 2013 Program meeting in Portland, Oregon or other Program events. A November webinar released the results to participating members.

Among the Program's webinars were those on the growing environmental threat of seabed mining and another that looked at a new strategic campaign-planning tool.

LAND AND FRESHWATER PROGRAM

On March 5-6, the Program sponsored a two-day meeting of biodiversity grantmakers and federal policy and management leaders in Congress and the Administration. Building on our annual Washington, DC policy briefing, this two-day event emphasized small group meetings with officials from key agencies such as the Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service. In addition, we arranged meetings with Members and/or staff from the Senate and House of Representatives, focusing on key committees and leadership with responsibility for public lands policy and management. Agendas and talking points were prepared in advance to ensure that the meetings were strategic, promoted discussion, and resulted in exchanges of useful information.

The Program had a busy year of webinars including two on Biomass, with one detailing its health implications; a series co-sponsored

with the Environmental Grantmakers Association "Clarifying the Scope of Clean Water Act's Proposed 'Waters of the United States' Rule"; one on "Creating 21st Century Framing for Western Public Lands" with Resource Media and Centerpoint Communications; and a post-election analysis webinar.

CONSERVATION SCIENCE PROGRAM

On November 5-6 in Seattle the Conservation Science Program hosted "Photosynthesis is the Answer: A Funder Briefing on Biocarbon." Thought leaders, scientists, organizers, and policymakers and funders explored ideas, strategies, and opportunities in this emerging field, across a range of geographies and issues. Biocarbon is where many issues come together: climate adaptation and mitigation; climate and biodiversity; climate and ecosystem services; biodiversity and human health. Steve Whitney (Bullitt Foundation) and Amanda Stanley (Wilburforce Foundation) conceptualized and produced this cutting-edge gathering.

GULF OF CALIFORNIA PROGRAM

Program members met in Todos Santos, Mexico on June 5th, immediately following the close of the Annual Meeting. Highlights included an update on a jointly funded capacity-building initiative for grantees, as well as a presentation on transparency and accountability. The GOC Funders survey results were also reported at the June 5th meeting.

Staff organized a series of meetings October 14-17, 2014 between GOC program co-chairs and U.S. and Mexico funders based in Mexico City, including those not necessarily working on conservation or environmental issues, in order to discuss crosscutting issues of shared interest. Staff and program co-chairs also met with several Mexican conservation funders new to CGBD.

GOC program webinars took place monthly.

HORIZON COMMITTEE

Three webinars offered provocative looks at topics as varied as synthetic biology, rewilding, and agro-biodiversity.

Barry Traill, Myrna Cunningham, Annette Lanjouw at IUCN World Parks Congress / Photo by Brent Mitchell

HIGHLIGHTS OF CGBD PLANS FOR 2015

Annual Meeting

Program Co-Chairs: Holly Powers (Russell Family Foundation)
Amy Panek (Park Foundation)
Host Committee: Kay Treakle (Harder Foundation), Katie Briggs (Laird Norton Foundation),
Zoe Rothchild (Northwest Fund for the Environment)
Board Liaison: Lisa Jaguzny, Campion Foundation

The 2015 annual meeting will take place at Alderbrook Resort, June 15-18, about ninety minutes from Seattle. The Planning Committee (AMPC 2015) is designing a meeting that offers functional approaches to the challenges facing the conservation community. Academies will look at strategies to protect bedrock environmental safeguards and creative leveraging of finance to achieve conservation goals. We'll track proposed energy infrastructure expansion globally and look at gaps in community response; learn from the youth and tribal movements; and get our feet wet with those fighting ocean acidification in the typical blend of CGBD colleague-to-colleague learning.

Climate & Energy

Program Chairs: Ed Miller (Joyce Foundation)
Amy Solomon (Jenifer Altman Foundation)
Board Liaison: Jenny Russell (Merck Family Fund)

The Climate and Energy Funders Group (CEFG) 2015 Annual Meeting will be held in Atlanta, April 15-17. We will highlight opportunities and needs for climate and energy work in the Southeast. We will also continue our focus on the EPA Carbon Pollution Standards, Path to Paris, regional priorities, and movement building, among others.

Through the COP 21 Funders Initiative, CEFG will help funders understand the international opportunities and dynamics. The collaborative is designed to help philanthropy identify opportunities for international collaboration, efficiently share information, increase overall donor investment, share and develop joint strategies, and align grant making to achieve greater overall impact towards an ambitious 2015 Paris agreement.

CEFG is also continuing work to help funders work together around the EPA's Carbon Pollution Standards (CPS). CEFG will convene quarterly calls with funders supporting CPS-related work. We will also hold broad learning webinars, and explore a new round of regional and state-based convenings.

CEFG will continue to support two funder workgroups, the Southeast Energy Funders Network and the Utility Energy Efficiency Workgroup. In addition, CEFG will coordinate deeper collaboration around New York's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative, an unprecedented opportunity to transform New York's energy utilities to drastically advance energy efficiency, distributed generation, renewables, and smart-grid technology.

Conservation Science

Program Co-Chairs: John Nordgren (Kresge Foundation)
Amanda Stanley (Wilburforce Foundation)
Board Liaison: Jorgen Thomsen (MacArthur Foundation)

After two years of hosting grantmaker briefings on particular conservation topics – ecosystem services, biocarbon – in 2015 the Program will return to producing educational opportunities for members that cut across the issue-specific focuses of the other Programs. Largely taking the form of webinars, these educational opportunities will address how grantmakers can assure that the highest quality scientific information - including from the social sciences - is being brought to bear in the cause of conservation. Webinar topics likely will include:

- Conservation in the Anthropocene, focusing on getting beyond one-size-fits-all conservation to create a more comprehensive, complementary suite of options.
- Science and Technology Fellows Program.
- The Next Big Disaster, looking at research needs and opportunities for response to the next environmental disaster.

Program members will also follow up on issues of interest identified by Program participants, including: monitoring and evaluation; community capacity building; tools for ecosystem-based management; enduring features approaches to conserving biodiversity in a changing climate; and exporting habitat exchange models to public lands.

Land & Freshwater Conservation

Program Co-Chairs: Andrew Bowman (Doris Duke Charitable Foundation)
Denise Joines (Wilburforce Foundation)
Board Liaison: Andrew Bowman (Doris Duke Charitable Foundation)

The Program will continue to host an annual winter meeting in Washington DC addressing a wide range of US terrestrial conservation issues, including: large landscape conservation; climate change adaptation; impacts of energy development on land, water and wildlife; public lands policy and management; and defense of bedrock environmental laws. This briefing will be held in conjunction with the Federal Policy Briefing hosted by the Environmental Grantmakers Association.

Through this Program, the CGBD will continue to be one of several grantmaker associations assisting funders on issues of US freshwater conservation. Likely areas of focus within the Land & Freshwater Conservation Program include freshwater ecosystem services, the nexus between water management and energy consumption, and the federal Clean Water Act. CGBD staff will also take the lead with a group of funders interested in sharing information and developing guidance on best practices in fostering watershed management and restoration. This effort will bring together grantmakers spearheading regional watershed efforts around the country and while focusing on sharing lessons learned from these regional efforts, will also look into the possibility for increased grantmaker collaboration around particular watersheds.

Marine Conservation

Program Co-Chairs: Steve Ganey (Pew Charitable Trusts)
Kate Barnes (MacArthur Foundation)
Board Liaison: Angel Braestrup (Munson Foundation)

The Program will host its annual meeting in San Diego the last week in March 2015. The program will focus on cross-border issues and will include the wide array of global marine conservation issues that members of the Program address in their grantmaking. With the assistance of the staff at The Ocean Foundation, the Program will conduct its annual survey of marine conservation grantmaking.

Throughout 2015 the Program will host a series of webinars on issues in both domestic and international marine conservation.

Gulf of California Program

Program Co-Chairs: Rosalind Becker (Helmsley Charitable Trust)
Kama Dean (Walton Family Foundation)
Board Liaison: Sergio Knaebel (Sandler Foundation)

The GOC program continues to contribute to the Environmentalists Under Threat security work that CGBD has been doing since the 2014 Annual Meeting. This includes upcoming coordination on digital security for both funders and grantees, as well as other collaborative efforts to address grantees' physical security. The Program is also tentatively expanding its scope to include funders working elsewhere in Mexico (not just the Gulf of California region). The GOC and Mexico funders will meet in March 2015 in San Diego.

International Connections Committee

Program Co-Chairs: Krishna Roy (International Division, USFWS)
Don Weeden (The Weeden Foundation)
Board Liaison: Jorgen Thomsen (MacArthur Foundation)

This committee looks at the issues of international funders. Following the interest in a session from the annual meeting held in Mexico in June, the CGBD sponsored a working meeting in September in San Francisco on "Environmentalists Under Threat," personal, digital, reputational and legal.

This Committee promotes participation on the global stage such as involvement in IUCN meetings. Plans are to continue the series of Philanthropy Dialogues moderated by Lynn Lohr and begun in South Korea in 2012, Australia in 2014, and planned for the 2016 Quadrennial IUCN Congress in Hawaii.

Webinars under design for the first half of 2015 include highlighting efforts to stop wildlife trafficking and another on the roll-out of new multi-lateral biodiversity policies.

Horizon Committee

Program Co-Chairs Andrew Bowman (Doris Duke Charitable Foundation)
Sergio Knaebel (Sandler Foundation)

Since 2000, the Horizon Committee has functioned as a valuable research and development as well as blue-sky tool for the grantmaking community. Funders "look over the horizon" to see what issues, solutions, or practices their colleagues need to know long before those matters may achieve full strategy or portfolio status. Horizon Committee products include: A 2001 "emerging issue briefing" that looked at disease vectors and climate change, pre-dating many funders' entrance into the mitigation arena; another early briefing brought funders, activists, and participating banks into the same room for the first time to consider the sustainable development practices built into the Equator Principles; a ground-breaking six-city U.S. tour by European adherents of the REACH protocols for new chemicals underscored the nexus of health and environment. More recently, the Horizon Committee has sponsored a series of meeting sessions and webinars that consider the fate of biodiversity in the Anthropocene. With new co-chairs for the first time in four years, the Horizon Committee is gauging its next directions for 2015, although one of its "R & D" ideas is tentatively on the agenda for the 2015 Annual Members' Meeting.

Information and Communications

CGBD will continue to refine our information systems so that members can get timely news in an easy to use format whether they're using a desktop computer or mobile device. In 2015, CGBD will rework its Salesforce database to pave the way for better integration among the website, various email lists, and membership records.

VISION, MISSION AND GOALS

At the November 2014 meeting of the Board of Directors the edited Vision, Mission and Goal statements were approved. This "refresh" was one of the "to-do's" from the 2013 Strategic Inquiry Process and the committee of the Board that did the re-write worked to incorporate member input and arrived at the new version.

Vision: A just, healthy, and sustainable future for all life on Earth supported by an effective philanthropic sector.

Mission: To support and grow a community of biodiversity grantmakers that pursues complementary and collaborative strategies.

We do this by:

- *Sharing knowledge and strategies*
- *Building partnerships*
- *Identifying needs and emerging issues*
- *Creating a forum for leadership.*

THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CGBD)
PO Box 29361
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Andrew Bowman, Imani Fairweather-Morrison, Barry Gold, Kay Treakle and Bruce Lourie at the Board meeting in Todos Santos / Photo by Lynn Lohr

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*Term of service completed June 2014

Amy Panek & Holly Powers
AMPC 2015 Co-chairs

See you at Alderbrook!

June 15-18, 2015